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ABSTRACT

A profile of freshmen at the University of South Carolina (USC) was drawn from a survey during the 1979 summer and fall orientation programs. Twelve areas of interest were taken from the results: age, racial background, average grade in high school, highest degree planned, reasons for selecting the college, parental income, probable college major, current religious preference, political orientation, student plans and aspirations, residence during the fall term, and comparison of views on controversial issues. Presented here are some of the data and a comparison of the results with national norms and also by the college of enrollment within the university. Sex differences are reported where they appear to be significant. Data in each of the 12 areas are given in tables with comments following. By comparison with national norms, the USC freshman: generally had lower high school achievement; was more likely to be black; was generally more likely to seek an advanced degree; was more likely to be Protestant or "other" and less likely to be Catholic; was more likely to live in a private home or apartment and less likely to live in a college dormitory; was similar in political orientations, socioeconomic level, and views on controversial issues; and was more likely to be pursuing business administration as a major and less likely to be pursuing professional fields. (MSE)

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Career Planning and Placement Center
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

HE 012 689

SUBJECT: Profile of U.S.C. Entering Freshmen
Fall, 1979

RESEARCH NOTES NO. 37-80

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Research Notes
No. 37-80

Subject: USC Freshmen Profile - Fall, 1979

Nature and Scope of the Study:

During the 1979 summer and fall orientation programs, a questionnaire prepared by the American Council on Education (ACE) was administered to approximately 75% of the entering freshmen class at the University of South Carolina (USC). A total of 361 other insitiutions of higher education, including 80 two-year colleges, 241 four-year colleges and 40 universities, also participated in the continuing national study of higher education sponsored by ACE's Cooperative Institutional Research Program.

The following study presents a comparative analysis of the various demographic data, opinions, and projections of the entering freshmen at USC. USC entering freshmen are compared as a whole to the national norms;[1] they are also compared by the college in which they were enrolled.[2] Sex differences were reported where they appeared to be significant.

1. For the first time, the national norms category used is more specific for entering freshmen Fall 1979. The category for USC is public universities (low selectivity). In past reports USC was compared to all universities in the norms group.

2. Comparative data were limited to eight categories. The following is a list of the categories, with a description of the colleges which were grouped in each category, and the number of students in each sample.

CATEGORY	COLLEGES WITHIN CATEGORY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1. Undeclared		657
2. Business Administration		550
3. Humanities and Social Sciences	Humanities and Social Sciences and Criminal Justice	357
4. Science and Math		265
5. Allied Health	Nursing, Pharmacy, Health and P.E.	176
6. General Studies		239
7. Journalism/Education		225
8. Engineering		225
	Total	2694

Twelve areas of interest were selected for this analysis from the original areas contained in the questionnaire.[3] These twelve areas were selected to provide a composite profile of the entering freshmen at USC during the fall, 1979 term. Each of these areas is presented in tables and followed by comments to highlight the major comparisons.

[3]The twelve areas of interest which were considered are:

1. Age by December 31, 1979
2. Racial background
3. Average grade in high school
4. Highest degree planned anywhere
5. Reasons noted as very important in selecting this college
6. Estimated parental income
7. Probable major field of study
8. Current religious preference
9. Political orientation
10. "Students estimate chances are very good that they will"
11. Residence planned during fall term
12. Comparison of views on controversial issues

Table 1

A Comparison of Age for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Age by December 31, 1979	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
16 or younger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17	3.1	4.0	3.9	4.6	2.8	6.0	7.2	4.9	4.3	2.1
18	74.7	73.4	78.4	71.9	77.8	73.3	77.9	75.9	75.1	75.5
19	19.8	20.9	14.6	20.9	18.2	16.8	14.0	15.2	18.2	20.1
20-25	2.0	1.7	2.5	1.9	0.6	3.4	1.0	3.6	2.0	2.1
26 or older	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC entering freshmen by age level were generally the same as the national norms.

2. USC entering freshmen were more likely to describe their age as 17 and less likely to be 19 when compared to the national norms.

3. There was a tendency for a higher percentage of younger students (less than 18) to enter the Colleges of Journalism/Education (7.2%) and General Studies (6.0%). There was a higher percentage of older students (19 and over) entering the Colleges of Science and Math (23.2%) and Business Administration (22.6%).

Table 1-A

A Comparison of Age for USC Freshmen
by Sex and University Norms

Age by December 31, 1979	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 or younger	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
17	2.3	6.3	4.3	1.4	2.9	2.1
18	71.8	78.4	75.1	72.0	79.2	75.5
19	22.2	14.1	18.2	23.6	16.4	20.1
20-25	3.5	0.8	2.0	2.9	1.2	2.1
26 or older	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2

Comments:

Female students were more likely than males to be 18 or younger whereas male students were more apt to be 19 or 20-25 at entry. Both the USC and national norms shared this finding.

Table 2

A Comparison of Racial Background
for USC Freshmen by College and University Norms

Racial Background	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
White/Caucasian	92.5	90.9	87.3	87.2	86.3	74.3	91.5	79.1	87.7	91.1
Afro-American Black/Negro	6.4	8.0	12.4	9.1	10.9	24.1	7.1	20.0	10.8	7.5
American Indian	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.5
Oriental	1.2	0.7	0.3	3.4	2.9	1.3	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.9
Mexican-American Chicano	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3
Puerto Rican - American	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Other	0.8	0.2	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6

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Comments:

1. Nearly 88% of the USC entering freshmen described themselves as "White/Caucasian" compared to the national norm of 91.1%.

2. USC entering freshmen, as may be expected of a southern state university, are more likely to describe themselves as Black than is common nationally. The percentages of freshmen describing themselves as American Indian, Oriental, Mexican-American/Chicano, Puerto Rican-American, and Other are similar to the national norms.

3. The USC colleges enrolling the highest proportion of Black students were General Studies (24.1%) and Engineering (20.0).

Table 3

A Comparison of Average Grade in High School for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Average Grade in High School	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
A	15.0	14.2	18.9	35.5	22.9	2.2	22.8	21.4	17.9	25.1
B	61.5	62.6	65.7	52.7	63.8	50.0	63.0	66.3	61.0	60.1
C	23.4	22.8	15.4	11.5	13.2	47.9	14.3	11.5	20.8	14.7
D	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.2

Comments:

1. USC entering freshmen reported an average grade in high school of "A" less frequently than the national norm (USC, 17.9%; national norm, 25.1%).

2. Entering freshmen at USC were more likely to report an average grade of "C" in high school than were their national counterparts (USC, 20.8%; national norm, 14.7%).

3. USC colleges enrolling the highest proportion of entering freshmen reporting that they had received an average grade of "A" in high school were Science and Mathematics (35.5%) and Allied Health (22.9%).

4. The College of General Studies enrolled the highest proportion of USC entering freshmen reporting an average grade of "C" in high school (47.9%).

Table 3-A

A Comparison of Average Grades in High School for USC Freshmen by Sex and University Norms

Average Grade in High School	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
A	14.6	21.4	17.9	21.3	29.1	25.1
B	58.3	63.9	61.0	59.3	60.6	60.1
C	26.8	14.6	20.8	19.0	10.1	14.7
D	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2

Comments:

1. It is noteworthy that USC females were much more likely (females, 21.4%; males, 14.6%) than USC males to report an average grade of "A" in high school.

2. USC males were almost twice as likely as USC females (males, 26.8%; females, 14.6%) to report an average grade of "C" in high school.

3. All of the above trends were in the same direction as the national norms.

Table 4

A Comparison of Highest Degree Planned Anywhere for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Highest Degree Planned Anywhere	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
None	0.7	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.9	0.7
Associate (or Equivalent)	2.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	2.6	19.6	0.0	0.5	2.5	1.3
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	37.2	41.9	21.3	23.8	43.5	45.3	35.4	27.0	34.6	40.9
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	36.5	41.1	32.6	27.6	35.1	22.3	48.5	52.5	37.2	33.1
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	8.8	4.5	24.5	15.1	4.5	3.4	11.6	17.2	11.0	9.4
M.D., D.C., D.D.S., D.V.M.	6.1	1.3	2.8	31.8	11.0	1.7	0.0	2.0	6.4	8.6
L.L.B., or J.D. (law)	5.5	6.8	17.9	0.4	0.0	1.1	1.5	0.5	5.5	4.6
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Other	2.8	1.9	0.3	0.8	2.6	5.6	1.0	0.0	1.9	1.1

Comments:

1. Compared to national norms (57.0%) a larger percentage of entering freshmen at USC planned to pursue post baccalaureate degrees (62.1%).

2. As expected a greater percentage of students in the College of General Studies considered the "Associate (or equivalent) degree" to be the highest they would obtain when compared to other colleges. It's of interest to note, however, that 80% of students entering General Studies aspired to baccalaureate or higher degrees.

3. USC colleges with the highest percentage of students planning post baccalaureate degrees were Humanities and Social Sciences (78.1%) and Science and Math (75.7%).

4. The College of Science and Mathematics had the highest percentage of students planning advanced degrees in medical areas (31.8%) while the College of Humanities and Social Sciences had the highest percentage of students planning law degrees (17.9%).

Table 4-A

A Comparison of Highest Degree Planned Anywhere for USC Freshmen by Sex and University National Norms

Highest Degree Planned Anywhere	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.7
Associate (or Equivalent)	1.3	3.8	2.5	0.9	1.8	1.3
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	34.1	35.1	34.5	37.9	44.1	40.9
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	35.9	38.6	37.2	33.0	33.2	33.1
Ph.D. or Ed.D.	11.4	10.6	11.0	10.5	8.3	9.4
M.D., D.C., D.D.S. D.V.M.	7.3	5.5	6.4	10.0	7.0	8.6
L.L.B. or J.D. (law)	7.1	3.7	5.5	5.8	3.3	4.6
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.3	1.1

Comments:

1. Females aspired to associate, bachelor's and master's degrees more frequently than males in both the USC sample and national norms.

2. Males were more likely than females to aspire to a doctoral, medical, or legal degree. As in 1. above, these results were similar for USC entering freshmen and the national norms group alike.

Table 5

A Comparison of Reasons Noted as Very Important in Deciding to go to College for USC Freshmen by College and University National Norms

Reasons noted as very important in deciding to go to college	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Parents wanted me to go	36.8	37.7	30.8	30.9	42.5	46.6	36.4	24.6	35.8	28.6
Could not find a job	3.1	2.6	3.4	2.3	4.6	10.5	5.3	4.0	4.0	3.5
Get away from home	11.0	10.8	9.5	6.1	7.5	10.1	11.1	8.1	9.7	9.1
Get a better job	80.3	80.1	74.1	77.0	77.7	77.4	75.3	82.7	78.5	78.6
Gain general education	71.1	67.3	77.0	62.6	67.6	75.2	78.7	65.0	70.6	67.0
Improve reading-study skills	42.0	39.2	41.2	30.9	41.6	47.9	40.6	31.4	39.7	34.9
Nothing better to do	1.1	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.8	0.9	1.3	1.4
Become a more cultured person	39.2	33.6	46.5	27.0	34.3	46.6	37.8	30.4	37.3	31.2
Make more money	72.9	78.9	66.3	74.2	67.1	69.6	61.3	82.6	72.6	66.7
Learn more about things	72.3	63.5	83.7	73.2	81.3	77.3	81.8	73.8	74.1	72.2
Meet new and interesting people	67.3	63.4	68.8	55.1	69.0	69.9	71.4	57.6	65.4	59.7
Prepare for graduate school	44.7	41.8	62.1	59.2	52.8	39.5	42.0	48.0	48.0	44.2

Comments:

1. USC students varied with respect to the reasons cited as very important in deciding to to to college. "Get a better job" (78.5%), "Learn more about things" (74.1%), and "Make more money" (72.6%) were the most frequently cited reasons.

Comments (continued):

2. In comparison with the national norms USC students were more likely to cite all of the reasons as important in deciding to go to college except for: "Get a better job", and "Nothing better to do".

3. Students in the Colleges of Engineering (82.6%) and Business Administration (78.9%) were most likely to go to college to "make more money".

4. Engineering students (82.7%) and undeclared majors (80.3%) were most likely to go to college to "get a better job".

5. "Prepare for graduate school" was cited most frequently by students in the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences (62.1%) and Science and Mathematics (59.2%).

Table 6

A Comparison of Estimated Parental Income for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Estimated Parental Income	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Less than $6,000	3.3	2.5	3.9	4.4	5.6	9.8	3.3	4.2	4.1	3.9
$6,000 - $9,999	6.1	4.6	7.2	4.8	8.8	10.7	5.7	3.3	6.1	4.9
$10,000 - $14,999	12.3	9.5	13.5	12.7	18.1	13.1	9.0	14.9	12.3	11.1
$15,000 - $24,999	26.6	19.3	28.5	30.9	26.9	26.6	24.1	26.5	25.6	30.5
$25,000 - $34,999	21.3	24.6	18.9	21.8	18.8	16.8	28.4	27.0	22.2	24.0
$35,000 - $49,999	17.8	17.9	14.7	15.4	13.8	12.6	19.9	15.8	16.5	15.5
$50,000 or more	12.6	21.6	13.2	9.9	8.1	10.2	9.5	8.3	13.2	10.1

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC entering freshmen by estimated parental income are very similar to the national norms.

2. More than half of the USC entering freshmen (51.9%) estimated an annual parental income of $25,000 or higher.

3. At USC and nationally, a sizable percentage of the entering freshmen had estimated parental incomes exceeding $35,000 (USC 29.7%; national norms, 25.6%). However 39.5% of the freshmen entering Business Administration had parental incomes in excess of $35,000.

Table 7

A Comparison of Probable Major Fields of Study for USC Freshmen by College and University National Norms

Probable Major Fields of Study	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Arts & Humanities	9.0	0.4	44.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	58.8	0.0	13.8	10.3
Biological Sciences	2.8	0.2	0.0	27.5	0.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	3.7	3.4
Business Administration	14.3	97.6	9.6	0.8	0.0	42.5	0.5	0.0	27.4	22.7
Education	3.7	0.2	0.9	0.0	9.5	14.1	27.4	0.0	5.1	7.0
Engineering	5.5	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	3.0	0.0	99.9	9.7	12.4
Physical Sciences	1.2	0.0	0.3	16.7	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.2
Professional	13.1	0.0	2.7	21.4	88.9	5.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	19.8
Social Sciences	5.1	1.0	39.1	0.4	0.0	6.0	1.4	0.0	7.3	6.0
Technical	2.2	0.2	0.0	11.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.6
Other	42.8	0.2	11.6	21.7	0.0	20.6	11.9	0.0	17.1	14.4

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC freshmen entering the different major fields of study were generally the same as national norms.

2. Areas in which the greatest difference occurred between USC and national norms were in Business Administration (USC 27.4%, National Norms 22.7%) and Professional (USC 12.2%, National Norms 19.8%).

Table 8

A Comparison of Current Religious Preference for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Current Religious Preference	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Protestant	55.3	50.9	54.1	56.8	62.7	40.7	64.1	56.0	54.4	47.5
Catholic	15.7	20.6	17.2	16.3	13.3	6.7	13.4	17.2	16.0	27.6
Jewish	2.2	2.8	1.5	1.9	0.6	1.9	1.8	1.0	2.0	2.4
Other	22.1	21.2	18.0	18.7	20.5	45.5	12.4	18.7	21.7	15.0
None	4.6	4.5	9.3	6.2	3.0	5.3	8.3	7.2	5.9	7.5

Comments:

1. Freshmen at USC are more likely to be Protestant and Other and less likely to be Catholic or None when compared to freshmen nationally.

2. Over half of all USC freshmen (54.4%) described their current religious preference as Prostestant.

Table 9

A Comparison of Political Orientation for USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Political Orientation	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms.
Far Left	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.1	4.0	2.6	1.8	0.9	1.5	1.5
Liberal	17.1	18.6	27.3	18.3	15.4	15.4	19.1	19.8	19.0	21.7
Middle of the Road	61.6	57.9	48.6	60.7	66.9	62.6	55.5	62.6	59.0	57.7
Conservative	19.6	21.5	22.2	19.8	13.7	18.5	23.2	15.8	19.8	18.3
Far Right	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.8

Comments:

1. Political orientations of USC entering freshmen were almost identical to students in the national norms.

2. About three students in five (59.0%) of the USC freshmen described their political orientation as "middle-of-the road" while approximately one student in five was described as "far left or liberal" (20.5%) or "far right" or "conservative" (20.4%).

3. The greatest percentage of USC entering freshmen describing themselves as "liberal" or "far left" were found in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (29.0%). The greatest percentage of these students describing themselves as "conservative" or "far right" were found in the College of Journalism and Education (23.7%).

Table 10

A Comparison of Future Estimations Made by USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Students estimated chances are very good that they will	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Change major fields	37.5	5.4	7.3	6.5	2.9	23.1	6.8	5.1	15.1	14.4
Change career choice	29.3	5.8	7.0	5.7	2.4	16.9	4.3	2.1	12.1	13.0
Live in a co-ed dorm	20.2	24.7	24.0	21.0	16.5	12.9	22.0	21.2	21.1	35.1
Graduate with honors	6.1	6.8	15.6	20.4	4.7	5.6	13.9	13.0	10.0	10.4
Make at least a "B" average	27.8	29.0	42.7	48.6	32.5	22.6	40.3	37.2	33.8	41.3
Work at outside job	18.4	19.0	23.1	17.7	18.2	20.8	23.8	22.1	20.0	21.5
Seek vocational counseling	4.3	2.6	4.8	3.5	0.6	3.7	4.9	2.1	3.5	6.1
Get a Bachelor's degree	53.6	70.3	76.9	78.8	76.6	37.0	76.7	77.9	66.9	76.1
Be satisfied with college	51.2	55.8	57.0	58.1	68.3	53.1	68.6	55.6	56.7	57.3
Find a job in preferred field	59.7	76.3	71.1	76.9	88.1	60.4	72.1	76.4	70.8	72.8
Marry within a year after college	11.8	15.0	14.1	9.3	22.0	13.1	18.5	13.7	14.0	18.5

Comments:

1. When compared to the national norms, a lower percentage of USC freshmen estimated that chances were good that they would "live in a co-educational dorm" (USC 21.1%; national norm, 35.1%), would "seek vocational counseling" (USC 3.5%; national norms 6.1%), and "marry within a year after college" (USC 14.0%, national norms 18.5%).

Comments (continued):

2. In addition, a smaller percentage of USC freshmen estimated that chances were very good that they would "make at least a 'B' average" when compared to the national norms (USC 33.8%; national norm 41.3%). This seems clearly related to the fact that a lower percentage of USC students reported making an average grade of "A" in high school (see Table 3). These findings also seem related to the fact that a lower percentage of USC freshmen (66.9%) expected to get a bachelor's degree when compared to national norms (76.1%).

3. About two-thirds of the USC freshmen (66.9%) reported that chances were very good that they would "get a bachelor's degree"; over half reported (56.7%) that they would "be satisfied with college" and 70.8% estimated that they would probably "find a job in a preferred field".

4. USC students varied somewhat with respect to estimations that they would "change major fields". Students from the Center for Undeclared Majors were most likely to make the statement (37.5%), and those in Allied Health were least likely (2.9%).

5. USC freshmen varied by college with respect to estimations that chances were very good that they would "find a job in a preferred field". About 88.1% of the freshmen in Allied Health agreed with the statement, whereas little more than half (58.4%) of the undeclared freshmen concurred with the statement. The other colleges fell within these two extremes (USC average 70.8%; national norms 72.8%).

Table 11

A Comparison of Places of Residence During Fall Term
by College and University National Norms

Residence planned during fall term	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
With parent or or relative	28.5	23.8	23.9	27.5	24.9	42.7	21.4	29.9	27.3	25.2
Other private home or apartment	14.2	12.2	13.7	11.2	10.7	20.0	7.1	14.9	13.2	6.1
College dormitory	55.9	60.9	61.3	59.3	61.5	33.8	68.8	53.4	57.3	66.2
Fraternity or sorority house	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7
Other campus housing	0.5	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3
Other	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.5

Comments:

1. When compared to the national norms, more USC entering freshmen planned to reside in "other private home or apartment" (USC 13.2%; national norms 6.1%).

2. Fewer USC entering freshmen (57.3%) planned to live in a dormitory when compared to national norms (66.2%).

3. Students in the College of General Studies were less likely to live in residence halls and more likely to live with parents and relatives than were entering freshmen in other USC colleges.

Table 12

A Comparison of Views on Controversial Issues of USC Freshmen
by College and University National Norms

Percentage of students agreeing strongly or somewhat that	Undc.	B.A.	Hu. & S.S.	Science & Math	Allied Health	General Studies	Jour./ Educ.	Engr.	Total USC	Natl. Norms
Government is not protecting consumer	75.5	72.0	79.4	72.2	79.2	76.4	79.7	74.4	75.6	71.6
Too many rights for criminals	64.5	65.6	57.5	66.9	62.7	53.3	67.3	72.3	63.9	63.6
Will not obey laws against own views	35.4	31.7	32.5	37.0	28.7	30.9	30.9	36.3	33.3	31.0
Should abolish death penalty	25.6	21.2	31.4	24.3	31.2	37.0	27.4	23.8	26.6	30.7
Abortion should be legalized	64.4	62.4	61.5	60.5	50.6	61.1	61.5	62.2	61.6	55.3
Women's activities best in home	26.6	31.6	20.8	26.4	21.8	34.8	18.4	24.2	26.3	26.3
Sex OK if people like each other	50.2	56.7	45.5	55.9	31.4	45.5	41.9	64.6	50.4	48.8
Marijuana should be legalized	49.0	49.9	50.3	45.5	40.6	45.3	35.8	45.1	46.7	45.1
Busing OK to achieve balance	45.2	41.2	45.8	34.1	42.0	61.3	42.6	45.5	44.1	33.6
Prohibit homosexual relations	51.5	57.7	42.2	51.7	58.6	54.4	47.0	59.8	52.5	46.8
Adopt open admissions at public college	24.8	23.0	23.3	24.3	26.9	37.6	15.9	20.5	24.2	35.7

Comments:

1. In general USC students held views similar to the national norms on controversial issues. In comparison, USC students were more likely to favor legalizing abortion (USC 61.6%; national norms 55.3%), achieving racial balance through busing (USC 44.1%; national norms 33.6%), and prohibiting homosexual relations (USC 52.5%; national norms 46.8%). Students nationally were more likely to favor open admissions at public colleges (national norms 35.7%; USC 24.2%).

2. A clear majority of USC students agreed "government is not protecting consumers" (75.6%), there are "too many rights for criminals" (63.9%), and "abortion should be legalized" (61.6%).

3. Less than half of USC students favored abolishing the death penalty (26.6%), restricting women's activities to the home (26.3%), and adopting open admissions at public colleges (24.2%).

4. USC students were more closely divided on such other issues as "sex is OK if people like each other" (50.4%), prohibiting homosexual relations (52.5%), and the legalization of marijuana (46.7%).

Table 12-A

A Comparison of Views on Controversial Issues of USC Freshmen
by Sex and University National Norms

Percentage of students agreeing strongly or somewhat that	USC			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Government is not protecting consumer	71.8	79.4	75.6	68.4	74.9	71.6
Too many rights for criminals	69.8	57.8	63.9	68.6	58.4	63.6
Will not obey laws against own views	37.6	28.9	33.3	34.0	27.8	31.0
Should abolish death penalty	20.3	33.0	26.6	24.5	37.2	30.7
Abortion should be legalized	60.7	62.5	61.6	54.7	56.0	55.3
Women's activities best in home	33.2	19.3	26.3	34.1	18.3	26.3
Sex OK if people like each other	68.3	32.1	50.4	65.4	31.6	48.8
Marijuana should be legalized	49.6	43.8	46.7	47.8	42.3	45.1
Busing OK to achieve balance	41.4	46.9	44.1	32.0	35.4	33.6
Prohibit homosexual relations	57.9	47.1	52.5	54.9	38.4	46.8
Adopt open admissions at public college	24.9	23.4	24.2	38.0	33.3	35.7

Comments:

1. Major differences by sex were observed on several items. Men were twice as likely as women to agree that sex is OK if people like each other. Men were also more likely than women to agree that women's activities should be confined to the home. These trends were similar for USC freshmen and the national norms.

Comments (continued):

2. Women were more likely than men to favor abolishing the death penalty and to agree that government is not protecting the consumer. Women were less likely than men to agree that criminals have too many rights, that homosexual relations should be prohibited, and that marijuana should be legalized.

SUMMARY

Profile - The average entering freshman at USC for Fall, 1979 was:

-- 18 years of age

-- a white/caucasian

-- a "B" student in high school

-- hoping to achieve at least a bachelor's or master's degree

-- likely to have gone to college in order to get a better job

-- probably from a family with an annual income of between $10,000 and $35,000

-- Undeclared, Business, or Humanities and Social Sciences major

-- a Protestant

-- "middle of the road" politically

-- residing in a college dormitory

-- very similar to national college student norms on controversial issues

Profile - Compared with entering freshmen nationally, USC entering freshmen were:

-- less likely to have maintained an "A" average in high school and generally achieved lower in high school

-- more likely to be Black

-- generally more likely to seek an advanced degree

-- more likely to be Protestant or "Other" and less likely to be Catholic

-- more likely to live in other private home or apartment and less likely to live in a college dormitory

-- similar in political orientations, socio-economic levels, and views on controversial issues

-- more likely to be pursuing business administration as a major and less likely to be pursuing professional fields of study